

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:

a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument; and

a sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having an hourglass shape defining an open aperture in an initial condition thereof for the receipt of the instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the aperture of the sealing member to expand to an expanded condition thereof and resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the fabric of the sealing member comprises an elastic material and is arranged to expand upon engaging the instrument.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a resilient material.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The assembly of claim 7 wherein the fabric is compressed into the resilient material.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The assembly of claim 8 wherein the resilient material is ~~at least bled into the fabric~~ disposed within interstices defined by the fabric such that the resilient material is at least partially formed with the fabric in an integral manner.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member has a generally tubular hourglass shape.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member ~~has a friction-reducing coating~~ includes a coating to reduce friction between the seal member and the at least one surgical instrument.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The assembly of claim 5 further comprising a housing and wherein the sealing member is disposed in the housing.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The assembly of claim 12 further comprising a zero seal in the housing for preventing the escape of insufflation gases in the absence of an instrument.

Claims 14-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The ~~seal~~ assembly of claim [16] 11, wherein the coating comprises a hydrocyclosiloxane membrane prepared by a plasma polymerization process.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The ~~seal~~ assembly of claim [16] 12, further comprising a ring member secured to the seal member and having a dampening element disposed between a surface of the ring member and a surface of the housing.

Claim 20 (New): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the sealing member is non inflatable.